

## The Balance of Power

Old World politics has been for centuries directed and sustained by secret treaties, with a view to the maintaining of what is known as "The Balance of Power."

The brief intervals of peace which followed wars among States were the result of the shifting of this "Balance of Power."

Present-day civilization asks for a more stable guarantee against the aggression of selfish and designing governments, and so we are endeavoring to formulate an international code of ethics, called "A League of Nations," which shall bring diplomacy into the open and have proper regard for the rights of weak nations.

Whether this idea can be worked out successfully and to the permanent good of mankind is a question which only time can answer, but if it can it will be a matter of universal satisfaction.

There is another balance of power which should have our consideration, and that is the bank balance.

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### BARRE DAILY TIMES

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Automobilists should bear in mind that Vermont roads still are narrow except in a few instances and that the greatest care must be exercised in motoring over the highways.

The trustees of the University of Vermont have been most fortunate in their selection of Mrs. Pearl Randall Wasson of Waterbury as dean of the women of that institution on the resumption of college work in the fall. Mrs. Wasson is the widow of the late Supt. Watson Wasson of the state asylum for the insane, himself a graduate of the medical department of the institution to which she is going. Mrs. Wasson is a woman of culture and considerable tact, qualities which would seem to be needed for the position of importance in the university.

Viewing the automobile accidents throughout the state with alarm for what may happen in its own city, the Burlington News points out a timely warning against speeding of motor vehicles on the streets of its city, saying that there are a large number of sharply intersecting corners, which are danger points under reasonable conditions and which become very hazardous when the speed maniac gets going. Inasmuch as a youngster was recently fined for speeding an automobile at the rate of 40 miles an hour on the chief business thoroughfare of Burlington, the warning of the contemporary seems to be well put. And yet there are speed maniacs in every community where the automobile finds its way (and what communities are without these machines?) and the same, or a similar warning is suitable for each and every city or town. It is far better to go slowly and feel free from responsibility for life and limb than it is to go fast and have the weight of a terrible catastrophe resting upon you.

### OUR ROVING SERVICE MEN.

That there is need of co-operation with the United States government if full justice is to be done to the discharged service men and their dependents is shown by the fact that 125,000 insurance certificates and 337,742 checks have been returned to the war risk bureau because of the inability of the postoffice department to find the addressees. In most of the cases the reason given for the failure of the postoffice department to locate the parties addressed was because the persons had removed and had left no mailing addresses. Manifestly, the responsibility for acquainting the government bureau with the location of the persons communicated with rests chiefly on the persons themselves; and it would seem that the men and their dependents would be glad enough to receive remittances from the government so that they would keep the war risk bureau posted on changes of location. But an added don't-care attitude has crept in and tens of thousands of the men who would be the recipients of financial assistance from the government are being tracked all over this continent and perhaps other continents in order that the government may make good its obligations to the men or their dependents. Probably the greater percentage of the unlocated parties are those who have migrated from small cities and towns into the great centers of population and have for the time being become so engrossed in the scenes and activities of their new homes that they have overlooked the little duty of acquainting the government with their change of base; and it will be many years before the living can all be traced

out, if indeed, they are ever traced out. But the relatives and friends of the men and their dependents can assist materially in getting the government into touch with the persons named on the war risk bureau's books by inducing the latter to write of any changes they may make in their postoffice addresses. This obligation of a friend ought to be carried out—for the good of the service men and their dependents and to aid the government in unraveling the tangle.

### THE TREATY "LEAK."

There is a perfectly natural wonder why a copy of the proposed treaty of peace between Germany and the United States should get into the hands of American business interests before a copy was delivered to the United States Senate, which body must pass upon the terms of the document. There probably is no inference anywhere that the treaty got into the hands of American business interests through the American delegation in Paris, for transmission through such a source would have been a decided affront to the Senate, and few believe that the president of the United States or any other member of the delegation feels so hostile to the Senate as to ignore that body in bald manner like that. It must be considered, therefore, that the text of the treaty, which was withheld from the United States Senate and the people of the United States, was transmitted through channels other than those directly connected with the American peace delegation. By no stretch of the imagination can the matter be laid to President Wilson or other members of the American delegation, and any attempt to make political capital out of an alleged affront will fall of its own weight. If there is any criticism to be advanced against President Wilson or other members of the American delegation it would be based on a firmer foundation than that.

### THE WILKES-BARRE CATASTROPHE

It was against the laws of Pennsylvania that explosives should be carried into the mines on the same train that carried passengers. It was also against all laws of reason that such a course of action should be carried out. The life of the miner is none too secure as it is, working in such conditions as are necessarily imposed upon that craft; but when the extra hazard of association on the same trolley train with high explosives is added the safety point is removed many degrees. Such a possibility as that which happened at Wilkes-Barre recently might have been foreseen and perhaps was foreseen by some persons, if not all of them engaged in the work. It was easily possible for a trolley wire to become dislodged or broken and to come in contact with inflammable material close to the explosives, in which case a terrible explosion was the inevitable consequence. That, undoubtedly, was the reason why a law was passed by the Pennsylvania legislature prohibiting the hauling of explosives and passengers on

the same train. Just why the law should have been ignored, or disobeyed, is not apparent unless it was that the mine owners became careless of the danger because of long immunity from harmful consequences. But that carelessness does not excuse the monumental blunder which sent four score of men into eternity and maimed and bruised many others. An outraged public opinion demands that action be taken which shall cause the mine owners to conform with law and with reason.

### CURRENT COMMENT

#### Dply Noted.

The Barre Times is invited to note that the fine and costs of the Massachusetts gentleman, arrested for leaving his car in front of a hydrant in this city, were promptly remitted.—Rutland Herald.

#### The Progressive Town.

The spirit of knocking kills more progress than anything else. These folks enjoy sitting back and making fun of everything and everybody. It is very discouraging, when people are giving time and effort and thought for the public good, to find a lot of their townspeople poking fun at it. A great many persons on finding that their efforts to promote progress excite only ridicule, will quit and let someone else try it next time.

To promote a progressive movement, some one person, or some few people, must take a conspicuous position of leadership. Immediately those of an envious type of mind begin to think that these people are thrusting themselves forward, that they are getting too much honor and prominence. So they start to carp and criticize. And this spirit has killed the progress of many towns.

Town progress in any town can occur only where the spirit of knocking does not exist. The people who themselves take the lead must be willing to follow and give hearty support. There must be a friendly sentiment binding together all elements. Whoever gives time and effort must feel behind him, not hostility and enmity, but universal approval and warm-hearted support. That is why it is always better for the man who hasn't a good word to say for a public movement to keep his mouth shut.—Boston Transcript.

#### The Family Earmark.

The correspondent who cabled the other day that Hawker and Grieve were hailed at King's Crossing station by a noisome populace, is probably a brother of the Young Lady Across the Way.—Boston Transcript.

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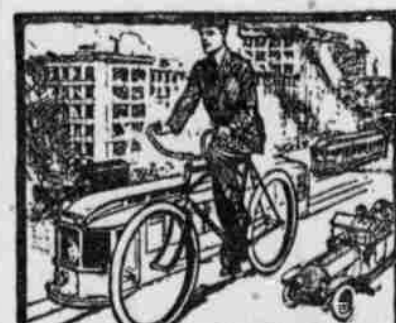
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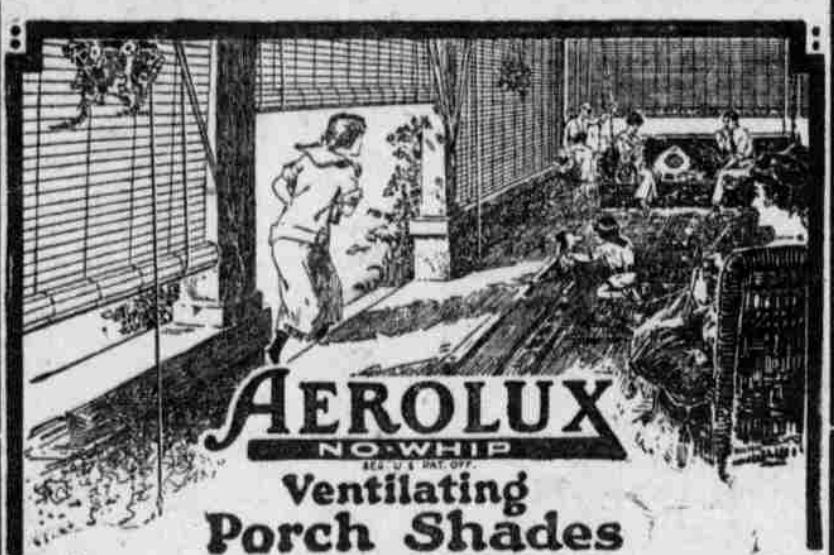
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